[cxix] Archives of Ontario, RG 8-5, Provincial Secretary's Correspondence, W.D. McPherson Files (1916-1919), Container 58, W.W. Dunlop Folder.

[cxx] The issue of shell-shock and the doctors' reaction to it is beyond the scope of this book, but it is clear that the their reaction to this disorder was influenced by their desire to establish psychiatry on a "somatic" and "scientific" footing, on a par with general medicine.

Clarke's successor in Kingston, Dr. Edward Ryan describes conditions at the Ontario Military Hospital in a personal letter to Provincial Secretary Hanna dated April 26, 1916. The other Medical Staff, in particular a Colonel Graham Chambers, have shown strong opposition to a separate "psychopathic section," the sole provision for which has been "a portion of one ward ... taken by means of a wooden partitition" (3). The "beautiful baths" which Armstrong sent had to be installed end to end because of the narrow room. Chambers has insisted that "a Department of Medicine should control this section" (3).

In his letter of May 11, 1916, addressed "to general," now Captain Edward Ryan, M.D., reports visiting the Springfield Military Hospital, and an interview there with Colonel Aldren Turner. The latter described how, because of the difficulty of separtating cases of psychosis from psycho-neurosis at the front, they had decided to treat all such cases as one group. Ryan's own opininion of such cases is a remarkable example of the persistence of a somatic and neurological approach to mental illness, and of the concept of "degeneracy":

> From what I have learned by observation and by discussion, both with the heads of hospitals and such men as Major Mott and Colonel Aldren Turner, it is clear that the myriad cases of psychosis, psycho-neurosis, functional paralysis, anastbesias, hyper-asethiss, hysterius, cases of mutism, of tremors and shock, are all sprung from the same cause, namely, a faulty heredity and an unstable mental basis; a neurotic temperament, accompanied often by depressing environments and lowering habits of life. As they are all due to the one cause, so are then [sic] amenable to the same treatment; they yield to the same action and re-act to the same influence. (5)

This confident assertion of the somatic nature of war-related mental illness is obviously related to the immediately following argument for a "Psycho-pathic Hospital" [sic] for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, for the treamtment of "all cases of a pyschic or a psychoneuroatic character" (6). There are already beds and therapeautic equipment at Orpington, which could be added to by the Provincial Secretary, and the facility would be staffed by physicians and nurses who had already acquired "experience, energy and judgment" (6) working in Ontario Hospitals. Other reasons for a "Psycho-pathic Hospital" echo C.K. Clarke's reasons for a clinic, such as the "early and energetic treatment" without which patients would be "helpless for life, unfitted for industrial pursuits ... a burden on their friends and on the community" (6). The somatic claim that Clarke used to argue for treatment of mental disorders at a clinic is now made by absurdly discounting the impact of the war, and for the very disorders whose resistance to somatic explanation would be used to promote the new Freudian approach -- psychoanalysis. Ryan concludes patriotically, still appealing to the Secretary's practical sense:

> The instincts of science and the interest of humanity alike demand that those who have so fallen shall receive from us our very best, that we may not only reward them for services faithfully rendered, and if we cannot restore them to what they once were we can do all that is possible to restore them to industrial life and to preserve their economic worth. (8)

Ryan prefaces the above with a note to S.A. Armstrong dated May 12, 1916, explaining that the accompanying document was his report, and quoting the reamark of Colonel Chambers, M.D., that "I might find some place near by for my work .... the mental cases are not wanted at Orpington." Premier Hearst denies Ryan's statement, in the letter of April 26 (which the Provincial Secretary showed him), that "I informed him that the section was int ended for the treatment of shock cases, mental and physical, and that it was intended to be a separate department" (1). He adds that "it was never intended that we should establish a complete Psycopathic [sic] Hospital."

However, in his "Memoradndum" of June 8, 1916, the Assistant Provincial Secretary insists that "I never understood ... that this Section was to be considered merely as a ward of the medical section," and generally takes exception to the Premier's comments. He seems especially offended by